

CHESTER J. CULVER  
GOVERNOR

PATTY JUDGE  
LT. GOVERNOR

January 31, 2007

Dear Home Health Agency Providers:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) kicked off the Home Health Quality Improvement National Campaign on January 11, 2007. This campaign is a grassroots collaborative quality improvement effort among the home health community, health care leaders, and Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs). The campaign focuses on improving the quality of patient care in the home health setting. The goal of the campaign is for home care patients to remain in their home settings, resulting in fewer hospitalizations. Home health agencies participating in the campaign will work to reduce the number of hospitalizations, while improving clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction.

As you know, home health patients prefer to stay home whenever possible. Being hospitalized can create unnecessary financial and emotional burdens for patients and their families. Currently, more than one in four home health patient episodes results in a hospitalization. Reducing this number presents an excellent opportunity to unite for home health quality improvement, which is the focus for the Home Health Quality Improvement National Campaign.

The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals strongly supports the goal of the Home Health Quality Improvement campaign. The Department strongly encourages home health agencies in Iowa to consider joining and working to achieve the admirable goals noted above.

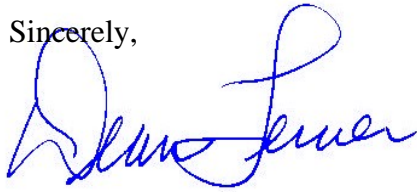
We wish to encourage you to evaluate your current practices, set goals for reducing hospitalizations, and to monitor and track your progress. It will likely be beneficial to the clients you serve to seek additional educational resources. To that end, the Department encourages you to contact the Quality Improvement Organization (The Iowa Foundation for Medical Care) to discuss options and resources that are available to you. The following contact information is provided for your convenience.

Ms. Joyce Taylor  
Manager, Health Care Quality Programs  
IFMC  
515 457-3730  
[jtaylor@iaqio.sdps.org](mailto:jtaylor@iaqio.sdps.org)

The Home Health Quality Improvement National Campaign also provides a wealth of information for home health agencies that want to join the campaign and participate in working to achieve the goals of the campaign. You can view the campaign website at [www.homehealthquality.org](http://www.homehealthquality.org).

I hope you will all take advantage of the resources available to improve quality of care to clients of home health agencies in Iowa. The Department looks forward to discussing your efforts and successes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dean Lerner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "L".

DEAN A. LERNER  
Acting Director

cc: IFMC/QIO